



MARAD FACT SHEET
Maritime Security Program (MSP) Visa
Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA)



America's Advocate for the Maritime Industry

MSP Participants

American Ship Management, L.L.C.
Central Gulf Lines, Inc.
Waterman Steamship Corporation
American International Car Carrier, Inc.
First American Bulk Carrier Corp.
E-Ships, Inc.
First Ocean Bulk Carrier I, L.L.C.
First Ocean Bulk Carrier II, L.L.C.
First Ocean Bulk Carrier III, L.L.C.
Maersk Line, Limited
OSG Car Carriers, Inc.
U.S. Ship Management, Inc

James E. Caponiti
Associate Administrator for
National Security

Taylor E. Jones, II,
Director, Office of Sealift Support
Fran Olsen, Deputy Director

Voice: (202) 366-2323
Fax: (202) 366-3128

Strategic Objective: National Security: Assure that sufficient sealift capability and intermodal transportation infrastructure exists to support vital homeland and national security interests.

Mission: Strengthen the U.S. maritime transportation system—including infrastructure, industry and labor to meet the economic and security needs of the Nation.

Operation Iraqi Freedom:

12 VISA (including 3 MSP) vessels chartered by Military Sealift Command to support surge
29 MSP vessels utilized by Military Traffic Management Command in their liner service
12 VISA (including 3 MSP) vessels carrying cargo to support rebuilding of Iraq

MARAD Performance Target:

165,000 available TEUs in VISA to meet DOD's requirements for intermodal, commercial sealift capacity.

VISA Participation

1. 52 Companies
2. 121 Ocean Going Ships
3. 260 Tugs & Barges

MARAD conducts an annual open season during which additional companies may apply to enroll in the VISA program.

**Maritime Security Program (MSP)
Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) Program**

The MSP serves to maintain an active, privately-owned, U.S.-flag and U.S.-crewed liner fleet in international trade. This fleet is also available to support the Department of Defense (DOD) sustainment in a contingency.

The MSP is a 10-year program established under the Maritime Security Act of 1996 and expires on September 30, 2005.

Annual funding for the MSP is \$98.7 million, which supports 47 modern, efficient, and militarily useful commercial dry-cargo vessels. These 47 vessels are operated by 12 different carriers.

The MSP helps retain a labor base of skilled American mariners who are available to crew the U.S. Government-owned strategic sealift fleet, as well as the U.S. commercial fleet, both in peace and war. MSP is responsible for retaining approximately 2,300 U.S. citizen mariners.

The structure of MSP encourages flexibility as operators are able to upgrade their fleets to compete in the global marketplace. MARAD approvals are required to ensure that vessels entering the MSP contracts meet DOD's needs. MARAD and the U.S. Coast Guard have established expedited procedures to encourage reflagging of modern, efficient vessels into the U.S. fleet.

MSP carriers must commit 100 percent of their MSP vessel capacity and related intermodal transportation resources to Stage III of DOD's approved Emergency Preparedness Program, VISA. MSP contributes approximately 74 percent of the total capacity committed to VISA. VISA operators without MSP contracts are required to commit 50 percent of their U.S.-flag capacity to Stage III of the VISA program.

VISA provides DOD with assured access to commercial intermodal capacity to move ammunition and sustainment cargo. More than 75 percent of the U.S.-flag, militarily useful, commercial dry-cargo shipping capacity is enrolled in VISA.

The objective of VISA is to maximize DOD's use of the multi-billion dollar, state of the art, U.S. commercial intermodal transportation system to serve America in peace and war while minimizing disruption to commercial operations.

VISA activation would be time-phased to streamline the availability of capacity to coincide with DOD requirements.

VISA Joint Planning Advisory Group sessions, with participants from MARAD, DOD, and industry, test the ability of the maritime industry to meet military requirements.